



Texas Military Forces News

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLIC RELEASE:

Adjutant General Announces Texas Army National Guard Leadership Change

CAMP MABRY, Texas (June 5, 2013) – Maj. Gen. John F. Nichols, The Adjutant General of Texas, announces the retirement of Maj. Gen. Joyce L. Stevens, Assistant Adjutant General for Army (ATAG) and Commander of the Texas Army National Guard, effective July 14, 2013. Stevens, a resident of Tomball, Texas, will retire with more than 32 years of service to the state and nation, including a tour of duty in Afghanistan.

"It's been a privilege to work with Maj. Gen. Stevens," Nichols said. "She has had an exceptional career serving Texas and the nation – and her accomplishments will be celebrated for years to come. We wish her continued success as she transitions into the next phase of her life."

Gov. Rick Perry has appointed Brig. Gen. William L. "Len" Smith, a resident of Austin, Texas, to succeed Stevens. Smith is a graduate of Southwest Texas State University (now Texas State University – San Marcos), where he earned his initial commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program in 1986. Smith has held several significant duty positions with the Texas Army National Guard, including service in Kosovo and Iraq.

The ATAG is the state's senior Army Guard official appointed by the governor and leads the Texas Army National Guard, which currently has more than 19,000 service members - the largest Army Guard in the nation. The ATAG supervises the operations, training, readiness, and resource allocation for both state and federal missions, and serves as the principal advisor to The Adjutant General on all matters concerning the Texas Army National Guard.

"I look forward to working with Brig. Gen. Smith in his new role," Nichols said. "He is an outstanding Army Guard leader, and has been instrumental in helping manage our state and federal requirements as Domestic Operations Commander for the Texas Military Forces."

For additional information, please visit Maj. Gen. Nichols' official Facebook page:

www.Facebook.com/MajorGeneralJohnFNichols. Details about the change of command ceremony will be forthcoming.

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The mission of the Texas Military Forces (TXMF) is to provide the Governor and the President with ready and trained forces in support of the citizens of Texas and State and Federal civil/military authorities at home and abroad.

The Texas Military Forces are commanded by the Adjutant General of Texas, the state's senior military official appointed by the governor, and is comprised of the Adjutant General's Department, the Texas Army National Guard (TXARNG), the Texas Air National Guard (TXANG), the Texas State Guard (TXSG) and the Domestic Operations Command (DOMOPS).

For more information about the Texas Military Forces visit our Website at www.txmf.us.

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